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Sven Birkelund, Søtoften 26, 8250 Egå, DK; Gunna Christiansen, Søtoften 26, 8250 Egå,

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horse Ves les

Lizzi Vester Afdelingsleder



PARTNERS 8

PLOUGMANN, VINGTOFT

SANKT ANNÆ PLADS 11

POST OFFICE BOX 3007

DK - 1021 COPENHAGEN K

A/S REG. NO. 223795

TELEPHONE +45 33 63 93 00

TELEFAX +45 33 63 96 00

e-mail pv@pv.dk



Artist Bjørn Bjørnholt

Oie Plougmann Knud Erik Vingtoft Anne Pors Henrik Rastrup Andersen Peter Gjerding Jeff Salka Anne Schouboe Henry Søgaard Marianne Johansen Michael Gaarmann Gert Høy Jakobsen

Annemette Ellermann Anne-Marie Lademann Susie P. Arnesen Jan Simonsen Peter Koefoed Jesper Thorsen Inge Liborius Dorte Marstrand-Jørgensen Nanna Wigø Charlotte Munck Pia Thorkilgaard Preben Damgård Lone Frank Jesper Levin Aamand Jakob Pade Frederiksen

Stephen H. Atkinson, Boston

Documentation Hanne Plougmann

Chief Accountant Helle Primdahl

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Ny dansk patentansøgning Sven Birkelund m.fl. Novel surface exposed proteins from Chlamydia pneumoniae Vor ref: 19922 DK 1

Aun Leale Plougmann, Vingtoft & Partners

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the identification of members of a gene family from the human respiratory pathogen Chlamydia pneumoniae, encoding surface exposed membrane proteins of a size of approximately 98/95 kDa. The invention relates to the novel DNA sequences, the deduced amino acid sequences of the corresponding proteins and the use of the DNA sequences and the proteins in diagnosis of infections caused by C. pneumoniae, in pathology, in epidemiology, and as vaccine components.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

C. pneumoniae is an obligate intracellular bacteria (Christiansen and Birkelund (1992); Grayston et al. (1986)). It has a cell wall structure as Gram negative bacteria with 15 an outer membrane, a periplasmic space, and a cytoplasmic membrane. It is possible to purify the outer membrane from Gram negative bacteria with the detergent sarkosyl. This fraction is named the 'outer membrane complex (OMC)' (Caldwell et al. (1981)). The COMC (Chlamydia outer membrane complex) of C. pneumoniae contains four groups of proteins: A high molecular weight group of proteins 98/95 kDa, a double band of the cysteine rich outer membrane protein 2 (Omp2) protein of 62/60 kDa, the major outer membrane protein (MOMP) of 38 kDa, and the low-molecular weight lipo-protein Omp3 of 12 kDa. The Omp2/Omp3 and MOMP proteins are present in COMC from 25 all Chlamydia species, and these genes have been cloned from both C. trachomatis, C. psittaci and C. pneumoniae. However, the genes encoding 98/95 kDa proteins from C. pneumoniae COMC have not been characterized or cloned.

30 The current state of C. pneumoniae serology and detection

C. pneumoniae is an obligate intra-cellular bacteria belonging to the genus Chlamydia which can be divided into four species: C. trachomatis, C. pneumoniae, C. psittaci and

C.pecorum. Common for the four species is their obligate intra cellular growth, and that they have a biphasic life cycle, with an extracellular infectious particle (the elementary body, EB), and an intercellular replicating form (the reticulate body, RB). In addition the Chlamydia species are characterized by a common lipopolysaccharide (LPS) epitope that is highly immunogenic in human infection. C. trachomatis is causing the human ocular infection (trachoma) and genital infections. C. psittaci is a variable group of animal pathogens where the avian strains can occasionally infect humans and give rise to a severe pneumonia (ornithosis). The first C. pneumoniae isolate was obtained from an eye infection, but it was classified as a non-typable Chlamydia. Under an epidemic outbreak of pneumonia in Finland it was realized that the patients had a positive reaction in 15 the Chlamydia genus specific test, (the lygranum test), and the patients showed a titre increase to the untyped Chlamydia isolates. Similar isolates were obtained in an outbreak of upper respiratory tract infections in Seattle, and the 20 Chlamydia isolates were classified as a new species, Chlamydia pneumoniae (Grayston et al. (1989)). In addition, C. pneumoniae is suggested to be involved in the development of atherosclerotic lesions and for initiating bronchial asthma (Kuo et al. (1995)). These two conditions are thought to be caused by either chronic infections, by a 25 hypersensitivity reaction, or both.

Diagnosis of Chlamydia pneumoniae infections

Diagnosis of acute respiratory tract infection with *C. pneumoniae* is difficult. Cultivation of *C. pneumoniae* from patient samples is insensitive, even when proper tissue culture cells are selected for the isolation. A *C. pneumoniae* specific polymerase chain reaction (PCR) has been developed by Campbell et al.(1992) However, this PCR test can seldom detect *C. pneumoniae* DNA in patient samples because of the extremely low yield of these bacteria. Therefore, the only choice for detecting both acute and chronic infections is

sero-diagnostics. Sero-diagnosis of Chlamydia infections is currently based on either genus specific tests as the Lygranum test and ELISA, measuring the antibodies to LPS, or the more species specific tests where antibodies to purified 5 EBs are measured by microimmuno fluorescence (Micro-IF) (Wang et al. (1970)). However, the micro-IF method is read by microscopy, and in order to ensure correct readings the result must be compared to the results with C. trachomatis used as antigen due to the cross-reacting antibodies to the common LPS epitope. Thus, there exists in the art an urgent need for development of reliable methods for species specific diagnosis of Chlamydia pneumoniae, as has been expressed in Kuo et al. (1995); "..a rapid reliable laboratory test of infection for the clinical laboratory is a major need in the field". Furthermore, the possible involvement of C. pneumoniae in atherosclerosis and bronchial asthma clearly warrants the development of an effective vaccine.

DETAILED DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention aims at providing means for efficient 20 diagnosis of infections with Chlamydia pneumoniae as well as the development of effective vaccines against infection with this microorganism. The invention thus relates to species specific diagnostic tests for infection in a mammal, such as a human, with Chlamydia pneumoniae, said tests being based on the detection of antibodies against surface exposed membrane proteins of a size of approximately 98/95 kDa, or the detection of nucleic acid fragments encoding such proteins or variants or subsequences thereof. The invention further relates to the amino acid sequences of proteins according to the invention, to variants and subsequences thereof, and to nucleic acid fragments encoding these proteins or variants or subsequences thereof. The present invention further relates to antibodies against proteins according to the invention. The invention also relates to the use of nucleic acid 35 fragments and proteins according to the invention in

diagnosis of Chlamydia pneumoniae and vaccines against Chlamydia pneumoniae.

Prior to the disclosure of the present invention only a very limited number of genes from C. pneumoniae had been sequenced. These were primarily the genes encoding known C. trachomatis homologues: MOMP, Omp2, Omp3, Kdo-transferase, the heat shock protein genes GroEl/Es and DnaK, a ribonuclease P homologue and a gene encoding a 76 kDa protein of unknown function. The reason why so few genes have been cloned to date is the very low yield of C. pneumoniae which 10 can be obtained after purification from the host cells. After such purification the DNA must be purified from the EBs, and at this step the C. pneumoniae DNA can easily be contaminated with host cell DNA. In addition to these inherent 15 difficulties, it is exceedingly difficult to cultivate C. pneumoniae and use DNA technology to produce expression libraries with very low amounts (few μg) of DNA. It has been known since 1993 (Melgosa et al., 1993) that the 98/95 kDa protein is present in OMC from C. pneumoniae. However, only a 20 very weak reaction with patient sera can be observed and prior to the work of the present inventors it has not been recognized that the 98/95 kDa proteins are surface exposed or that they are indeed immunogenic at all.

Use of antibodies to screen expression libraries is a well known method to clone fragments of genes encoding antigenic parts of proteins. However, since patient sera do not show a significant reaction with the 98/95 kDa proteins it has not been possible to use patient serum to clone the proteins.

It was known that monoclonal antibodies generated by the inventors reacted with conformational epitopes on the surface of *C. pneumoniae* and that they also reacted with *C. pneumoniae* OMC by immuno-electron microscopy (Christiansen et al. 1994). Furthermore, the 98/95 kDa proteins are the only unknown protein from the *C. pneumoniae* OMC (Christiansen et al. 1994). The inventors chose to take an unconventional step

in order to clone the hitherto 98/95 kDa proteins: *C. pneumoniae* OMC was purified and the highly immunogenic conformational epitopes were destroyed by SDS-treatment of the antigen before immunization. Thereby an antibody (PAG 150) to less immunogenic linear epitopes was obtained. This provided the possibility to obtain an antiserum which could detect the 98/95 kDa proteins in colony blotting of recombinant *E. coli*.

Mice infected with *C. pneumoniae* generate antibodies to the 98/95 kDa proteins identified by the inventors and named Omp4-7, but do not recognize the SDS treated heat denatured antigens normally used for SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting. However, a strong reaction was, seen when the antigen was not heat denatured. It is therefore highly likely that if a similar reaction is seen in connection with human infections the antigens of the present invention will be of invaluable use in sero-diagnostic tests and may very likely be used as a vaccine for the prevention of infections.

20 By generating antibodies against COMC from C. pneumoniae a polyclonal antibody (PAG 150) was obtained which reacted with all the proteins. This antibody was used to identify the genes encoding the 98/95 kDa proteins in an expression library of C. pneumoniae DNA. A problem in connection with 25 the present invention was that a family comprising a number of similar genes were found in C. pneumoniae. Therefore, a large number of different clones were required to identify clusters of fragments. Only because the rabbit antibody generated by the use of SDS-denatured antigens contained 30 antibodies to a high number of different epitopes positioned on different members of the protein family did the inventors succeed in cloning and sequencing four of the genes. The deduced amino acid sequences of two of the genes showed an amino acid homology of 61% and a size of 98 kDa, and these genes were fully sequenced except for approximately 45 base 35 pairs in one of the genes. In addition, partial sequences from two other genes were obtained, from which the deduced

amino acid sequences showed an amino acid homology to the two fully sequenced genes in a similar range.

Part of the 98/95 kDa proteins were expressed as fusion proteins, and mice polyclonal monospecific antibodies against the proteins were produced. The antibodies reacted with the surface of C. pneumoniae in both immunofluorescence and immunoelectron microscopy. This shows for the first time that the 98/95 kDa protein family in C. pneumoniae comprises surface exposed outer membrane proteins. This important 10 finding leads to the realization that members of the 98/95 kDa C. pneumoniae protein family are good candidates for the development of a sero diagnostic test for C. pneumoniae, as well as the development of a vaccine against infections with C. pneumoniae based on using these proteins. Furthermore, the proteins may be used as epidemiological markers, and polyclonal monospecific sera against the proteins can be used to detect C. pneumoniae in human tissue or detect C. pneumoniae isolates in tissue culture. Also, the genes encoding the 98/95 kDa protein family may be used for the 20 development of a species specific diagnostic test based on nucleic acid detection/amplification.

A broad aspect of the present invention relates to a species specific diagnostic test for infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said test comprising detecting in a patient sample the presence of antibodies against proteins from the outer membrane of *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said proteins being of a molecular weight of 98/95 kDa, or detecting the presence of nucleic acid fragments encoding said outer membrane proteins or fragments thereof.

In the context of the present application, the term "patient sample" should be taken to mean an amount of serum from a patient, such as a human patient, or an amount of plasma from said patient, or an amount of mucosa from said patient, or an amount of tissue from said patient, or an amount of urine

from said patient, or an amount of cerebrospinal fluid from said patient, or an amount of atherosclerotic lesion from said patient, or an amount of mucosal swaps from said patient, or an amount of cells from a tissue culture originating from said patient, or an amount of material which in any way originates from said patient.

In the present context, the term 98/95 kDa protein means proteins normally present in the outer membrane of *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, which in SDS-PAGE can be observed as one or more bands with an apparent molecular weight substantially in the range of 95-98 kDa.

Within the scope of the present invention are species specific sero-diagnostic tests based on the usage of the genes belonging to the gene family disclosed in the present application which might include the remaining sequences of the nucleic acid fragments disclosed herein which will be cloned using the approach described in detail in the examples below. Further using the sequences and antibodies already generated additional genes in the gene family of the invention will be sequenced by screening of existing genomic libraries generated by the inventors and subsequent sequencing of the inserts as described in the examples below.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention relate to species specific diagnostic tests according to the invention, wherein the outer membrane proteins have sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 8, or variants or subsequences of these sequences.

When used in connection with proteins according to the
30 present invention the term "variant" should be understood as
a sequence of amino acids which shows a sequence homology of
less than 100% to one of the proteins of the invention. A
variant sequence can be of the same size or it can be of a
different size as the sequence it is compared to. A variant

will typically show a sequence homology of at least 50%, preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 70%, such as at least 80%, e.g. at least 90%, 95% or 98%.

The term "sequence homology" in connection with sequences of proteins of the invention means the percentage of matching amino acid residues (with respect to both position and type) in the proteins of the invention and an aligned protein of equal of different length.

within the scope of the present invention are subsequences of one of the proteins of the invention, meaning a consecutive stretch of amino acid residues taken from SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 8. A subsequence will typically comprise at least 100 amino acids, preferably at least 80 amino acids, more preferably at least 70 amino acids, such as 50 amino acids. It might even be as small as 10-50 amino acids, such as 20-40 amino acids, e.g. about 30 amino acids. A subsequence will typically show a sequence homology of at least 50%, preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 70%, such as at least 80%, e.g. at least 90%, 95% or 98%.

Diagnostic tests according to the invention include immunoassays selected from the group consisting of a direct or indirect EIA such as an ELISA, an immunoblot technique such as a Western blot, a radio immuno assay, and any other non-enzyme linked antibody binding assay or procedure such as a fluorescence, agglutination or precipitation reaction, and nephelometry.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention relates to species specific diagnostic tests according to the invention, said test comprising an ELISA, wherein antibodies against the proteins of the invention or fragments thereof are detected in samples.

A preferred embodiment of the invention, is an ELISA based on detection in samples of antibodies against proteins of the invention. The ELISA may use proteins of the invention, or variants thereof, i.e. the antigen, as coating agent. An ELISA will typically be developed according to standard methods well known in the art, such as methods described in "Antibodies; a laboratory manual", Ed. David Lane Harlow, Cold Spring Habor laboratories (1988), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

10 Recombinant proteins will be produced using DNA sequences obtained essentially using methods described in the examples below. Such DNA sequences, comprising the entire coding region of each gene in the gene family of the invention, will be cloned into an expression vector from which the deduced protein sequence can be purified. The purified proteins will be analyzed for reactivity in ELISA using both monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies as well as sera from experimentally infected mice and human patient sera.

From the experimentally infected mice sera it is known that
non-linear epitopes are recognized predominantly. Thus, it is
contemplated that different forms of purification schemes
known in the art will be used to analyze for the presence of
discontinuous epitopes, and to analyze whether the human
immune response is also directed against such epitopes.

25 Preferred embodiments of the present invention relate to species specific diagnostic tests according to the invention, wherein the nucleic acid fragments have sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 7, or variants of these sequences.

In connection with nucleic acid fragments according to the present invention the term "variant" should be understood as a sequence of nucleic acids which shows a sequence homology of less than 100%. A variant sequence can be of the same size or it can be of a different size as the sequence it is

compared to. A variant will typically show a sequence homology of at least 50%, preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 70%, such as at least 80%, e.g. at least 90%, 95% or 98%.

- The term "sequence homology" in connection with nucleic acid fragments of the invention means the percentage of matching nucleic acids (with respect to both position and type) in the nucleic acid fragments of the invention and an aligned nucleic acid fragment of equal or different length.
- 10 In order to obtain information concerning the general distribution of each of the genes according to the present invention, PCR will be performed for each gene on all available C. pneumoniae isolates. This will provide information on the general variability of the genes or 15 nucleic acid fragments of the invention. Variable regions will be sequenced. From patient samples PCR will be used to amplify variable parts of the genes for epidemiology. Nonvariable parts will be used for amplification by PCR and analyzed for possible use as a diagnostic test. It is 20 contemplated that if variability is discovered, PCR of variable regions can be used for epidemiology. PCR of nonvariable regions can be used as a species specific diagnostic test. Using genes encoding proteins known to be invariable in all known isolates prepared as targets for PCR to genes 25 encoding proteins with unknown function.

Particularly preferred embodiments of the present invention, relate to diagnostic tests according to the invention, wherein detection of nucleic acid fragments is obtained by using nucleic acid amplification, preferably polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Within the scope of the present invention is a PCR based test directed at detecting nucleic acid fragments of the invention or variants thereof. A PCR test will typically be developed according to methods well known in the art and will typically

comprise a PCR test capable of detecting and differentiating between nucleic acid fragments of the invention. Preferred are quantitative competitive PCR tests or nested PCR tests. The PCR test according to the invention will typically be developed according to methods described in detail in EP B 540 588, EP A 586 112, EP A 643 140 OR EP A 669 401, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Within the scope of the present invention are variants and subsequences of one of the nucleic acid fragments of the invention, meaning a consecutive stretch of nucleic acids taken from SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 7. A variant or subsequence will preferably comprise at least 100 nucleic acids, preferably at least 80 nucleic acids, more preferably at least 70 nucleic acids, such as at least 50 nucleic acids. It might even be as small as 10-50 nucleic acids, such as 20-40 nucleic acids, e.g. about 30 nucleic acids. A subsequence will typically show a sequence homology of at least 50%, preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 70%, such as at least 80%, e.g. at least 90%, 95% or 98%.

A very important aspect of the present invention relates to proteins of the invention derived from Chlamydia pneumoniae having amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 8 or variants or subsequences thereof having a sequence homology of at least 50%, preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 70%, such as at least 80%, e.g. at least 90%, 95% or 98% and a substantially identical biological activity.

30 By the term "substantially identical biological activity" is meant that a protein when used in immunization and immunoblotting, as described in detail in Example 2 herein, will yield a reaction in serum from a patient, such as a human patient, infected with *Chlamydia pneumoniae* which is at least 50% of the reaction obtained with the purified fusion

protein transcribed from the pEX1-1 clone, as described herein, preferably at least 60% of said reaction, more preferably at least 70% of said reaction, still more preferably 80% of said reaction, even more preferably at least 90% of said reaction.

Comparison of the DNA sequences from genes encoding Omp4-7 shows that the overall homology between the individual genes ranges between approximately 46-53%. Comparison of the amino acid sequences of Omp4-7 shows that the overall homology of the amino acids ranges between 48-63%. The homology is generally maintained along the entire length of the deduced amino acids. However, as seen from figure 12 there are some regions in which the homology is more pronounced. This is seen in the repeated sequence where the sequence GGAI is repeated six times in two of the genes. In the third gene 15 this part of the sequence is not present as an indication of a deletion of this part of the gene. For the fourth gene, the sequence encoding the repeated part has not yet been cloned and sequenced. It is interesting that the DNA homology is not conserved for the sequences encoding the four amino acids 20 GGAI. This may indicate a functional role of this part of the protein and indicates that the repeated structure did not occur by a duplication of the gene. In addition to the four amino acid repeats GGAI a region from amino acid 400 to 490 has a higher degree of homology than the rest of the protein, 25 with the conserved sequence FSGE occurring in all sequences.

Since none of the genes and deduced amino acid sequences of the invention are identical the following is within the scope of the present invention; production of monospecific

30 antibodies, the use of said antibodies for characterizing which *C. pneumoniae* proteins are expressed, the use of said antibodies for characterizing at which time during developmental life cycle said *C. pneumoniae* proteins are expressed, and the use of said antibodies for characterizing the precise cellular localization of said *C. pneumoniae* proteins. Also within the scope of the present invention is

the use of monospecific antibodies against proteins of the invention for determining which part of said proteins is surface exposed and how proteins in the *C. pneumoniae* COMC interact with each other.

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Preferred embodiments of the present invention relate to polypeptides which comprise subsequences of the proteins of the invention, said subsequences comprising the sequence GGAI. Further preferred embodiments of the present invention relate to polypeptides which comprise subsequences of the proteins of the invention, said subsequences comprising the sequence FSGE

Polypeptides according to the invention will typically be of a length of at least 10 amino acids, preferably at least 15 amino acids, preferably at least 20 amino acids, preferably at least 25 amino acids, preferably at least 30 amino acids, preferably at least 35 amino acids, preferably at least 40 amino acids, preferably at least 45 amino acids, preferably at least 50 amino acids, preferably at least 55 amino acids, preferably at least 50 amino acids, preferably at least 50 amino acids, preferably at least 50 amino acids,

A very important aspect of the present invention relates to nucleic acid fragments of the invention derived from Chlamydia pneumoniae, variants and subsequences thereof

A further important aspect of the present invention relates to at least partially purified nucleic acid fragments according to the invention.

Another important aspect of the present invention relates to antibodies against the proteins according to the invention, such antibodies including polyclonal monospecific antibodies and monoclonal antibodies against proteins with sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 8 or variants or subsequences of these sequences.

A very important aspect of the present invention relates to diagnostic kits for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kits comprising one or more proteins with amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 8 or variants or subsequences of these sequences.

Another very important aspect of the present invention relates to diagnostic kits for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with Chlamydia pneumoniae, said kits comprising antibodies against a protein with an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 8 or subsequences or variants of these sequences. Antibodies included in a diagnostic kit according to the invention can be polyclonal or monoclonal or a mixture hereof.

Still another very important aspect of the present invention relates to diagnostic kits for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kits comprising one or more nucleic acid fragments with sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 7 or variants or subsequences of these sequences.

An aspect of the present invention relates to a composition for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said composition comprising one or more proteins with amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 8 or variants or subsequences of these sequences.

An important role for the proteins of the invention in prevention of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *C. pneumoniae* is expected. Thus proteins of the invention, including variants and subsequences will be produced, typically by using recombinant techniques, and will then be

used as an antigen in immunization of mammals, such as rabbits. Subsequently, the hyper immune sera obtained by the immunization will be analyzed for protection against *C. pneumoniae* infection using a tissue culture assay. In addition it is contemplated that monoclonal antibodies will be produced, typically using standard hybridoma techniques, and analyzed for protection against infection with *C. pneumoniae*.

It is envisioned that particularly interesting and
immunogenic epitopes will be found in connection with the
proteins of the invention, which will comprise subsequences
of said proteins. It is preferred to use polypeptides
comprising such subsequences of the proteins of the invention
in immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia.

pneumoniae.

An important aspect of the present invention relates to the use of proteins with sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 8 or variants or subsequences thereof in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with Chlamydia pneumoniae.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention relates to the use of proteins according to the invention in an undenatured form, in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with Chlamydia pneumoniae.

A very important aspect of the present invention relates to the use of proteins with sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 8 or variants or subsequences of these sequences, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention relates to the use of proteins according to the invention in an

undenatured form, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.

A very important aspect of the present invention relates to the use of nucleic acid fragments with nucleotide sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 7 or variants or subsequences of said nucleotide sequences for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.

It is envisioned that one type of vaccine against *C*.

10 pneumoniae will be developed by using gene-gun vaccination of mice. Typically, different genetic constructs containing nucleic acid fragments, combinations of nucleic acid fragments according to the invention will be used in the gene-gun approach. The mice will then subsequently be

15 analyzed for production of both humoral and cellular immune response and for protection against infection with *C*.

pneumoniae after challenge herewith.

The invention therefore also relates to a method for immunizing an mammal, such as a human, with outer membrane protein, according to the invention, derived from *Chlamydia* pneumoniae, the method comprising administering an immunogenically effective amount of said outer membrane protein.

In line with this, the invention also relates to the uses of the proteins of the invention as a pharmaceutical (a vaccine) as well as to the uses thereof for the preparation of a vaccine against infections with Chlamydia pneumoniae.

Preparation of vaccines which contain protein sequences as active ingredients is generally well understood in the art, as exemplified by U.S. Patents 4,608,251; 4,601,903; 4,599,231; 4,599,230; 4,596,792; and 4,578,770, all incorporated herein by reference. Typically, such vaccines are prepared as injectables either as liquid solutions or suspen-

sions; solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid prior to injection may also be prepared. The preparation may also be emulsified. The active immunogenic ingredient is often mixed with excipients which are pharma-5 ceutically acceptable and compatible with the active ingredient. Suitable excipients are, for example, water, saline, dextrose, glycerol, ethanol, or the like, and combinations thereof. In addition, if desired, the vaccine may contain minor amounts of auxiliary substances such as wetting or emulsifying agents, pH buffering agents, or adjuvants which enhance the effectiveness of the vaccines.

The vaccines are conventionally administered parenterally, by injection, for example, either subcutaneously or intramuscularly. Additional formulations which are suitable for other modes of administration include suppositories and, in some cases, oral formulations. For suppositories, traditional binders and carriers may include, for example, polyalkalene glycols or triglycerides; such suppositories may be formed from mixtures containing the active ingredient in the range 20 of 0.5% to 10%, preferably 1-2%. Oral formulations include such normally employed excipients as, for example, pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, cellulose, magnesium carbonate, and the like. These compositions take the form of solutions, suspensions, tablets, pills, capsules, sustained release formulations or powders and contain 10-95% of active ingredient, preferably 25-70%.

The protein sequences may be formulated into the vaccine as neutral or salt forms. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include acid addition salts (formed with the free amino groups of the protein) and which are formed with inorganic acids such as, for example, hydrochloric or phosphoric acids, or such organic acids as acetic oxalic, tartaric, mandelic, and the like. Salts formed with the free carboxyl groups may 35 also be derived from inorganic bases such as, for example, sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, or ferric hydroxides,

and such organic bases as isopropylamine, trimethylamine, 2-ethylamino ethanol, histidine, procaine, and the like.

The vaccines are administered in a manner compatible with the dosage formulation, and in such amount as will be therapeutically effective and immunogenic. The quantity to be administered depends on the subject to be treated, including, e.g., the capacity of the individual's immune system to mount an immune response, and the degree of protection desired. Suitable dosage ranges are of the order of several hundred 10 micrograms active ingredient per vaccination with a preferred range from about 0.1 μ g to 1000 μ g, such as in the range from about 1 μg to 300 μg , and especially in the range from about 10 μ g to 50 μ g. Suitable regimes for initial administration and booster shots are also variable but are typified by an 15 initial administration followed by subsequent inoculations or other administrations.

The manner of application may be varied widely. Any of the conventional methods for administration of a vaccine are applicable. These are believed to include oral application on a solid physiologically acceptable base or in a physiologically acceptable base or in a physiologically acceptable dispersion, parenterally, by injection or the like. The dosage of the vaccine will depend on the route of administration and will vary according to the age of the person to be vaccinated and, to a lesser degree, the size of the person to be vaccinated.

Some of the proteins of the vaccine are expected to be sufficiently immunogenic in a vaccine, but for some of the others the immune response may be enhanced if the vaccine further comprises an adjuvant substance.

Various methods of achieving adjuvant effect for the vaccine include use of agents such as aluminum hydroxide or phosphate (alum), commonly used as 0.05 to 0.1 percent solution in phosphate buffered saline, admixture with synthetic polymers of sugars (Carbopol) used as 0.25 percent solution, aggrega-

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tion of the protein in the vaccine by heat treatment with temperatures ranging between 70° to 101°C for 30 second to 2 minute periods respectively. Aggregation by reactivating with pepsin treated (Fab) antibodies to albumin, mixture with bacterial cells such as *C. parvum* or endotoxins or lipopoly-saccharide components of gram-negative bacteria, emulsion in physiologically acceptable oil vehicles such as mannide mono-oleate (Aracel A) or emulsion with 20 percent solution of a perfluorocarbon (Fluosol-DA) used as a block substitute may also be employed. Other interesting candidates for adjuvants are DDA (dimethyldioctadecylammonium bromide), but also Freund's complete and incomplete adjuvants as well as QuilA and RIBI are interesting possibilities.

Other possibilities involve the use of immunomodulating substances such as lymphokines (e.g. IFN- γ , IL-2 and IL-12) or synthetic IFN- γ inducers such as poly I:C in combination with the above-mentioned adjuvants.

In many instances, it will be necessary to have multiple administrations of the vaccine, usually not exceeding six 20 vaccinations, more usually not exceeding four vaccinations and preferably one or more, usually at least about three vaccinations. The vaccinations will normally be at from two to twelve week intervals, more usually from three to five week intervals. Periodic boosters at intervals of 1-5 years, usually three years, will be desirable to maintain the desired levels of protective immunity. The course of the immunization may be followed by in vitro assays. The assays may be performed using conventional labels, such as radionuclides, enzymes, fluorescers, and the like. These techniques are well known and may be found in a wide variety of patents, such as U.S. Patent Nos. 3,791,932; 4,174,384 and 3,949,064, as illustrative of these types of assays.

It is also possible to produce a living vaccine by introducing, into a non-pathogenic microorganism, at least one nucleic acid fragment encoding a protein fragment or protein

of the invention, and effecting expression of the protein fragment or the protein on the surface of the microorganism (e.g. in the form of a fusion protein including a membrane anchoring part or in the form of a slightly modified protein or protein fragment carrying a lipidation signal which allows anchoring in the membrane). The skilled person will know how to adapt relevant expression systems for this purpose

Another part of the invention is based on the fact that recent research have revealed that a DNA fragment cloned in a vector which is non-replicative in eukaryotic cells may be introduced into an animal (including a human being) by e.g. intramuscular injection or percutaneous administration (the so-called "gene gun" approach). The DNA is taken up by e.g. muscle cells and the gene of interest is expressed by a promoter which is functioning in eukaryotes, e.g. a viral promoter, and the gene product thereafter stimulates the immune system. These newly discovered methods are reviewed in Ulmer et al., 1993, which hereby is included by reference.

Thus, a nucleic acid fragment encoding a protein or protein of the invention may be used for effecting in vivo expression of antigens, i.e. the nucleic acid fragments may be used in so-called DNA vaccines. Hence, the invention also relates to a vaccine comprising a nucleic acid fragment encoding a protein fragment or a protein of the invention, the vaccine effecting in vivo expression of antigen by an mammal, such as a human, to whom the vaccine has been administered, the amount of expressed antigen being effective to confer substantially increased resistance to infections with Chlamydia pneumoniae in an mammal, such as a human.

30 The efficacy of such a "DNA vaccine" can possibly be enhanced by administering the gene encoding the expression product together with a DNA fragment encoding a protein which has the capability of modulating an immune response. For instance, a gene encoding lymphokine precursors or lymphokines (e.g. IFN-35 γ, IL-2, or IL-12) could be administered together with the

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gene encoding the immunogenic protein fragment or protein, either by administering two separate DNA fragments or by administering both DNA fragments included in the same vector. It is also a possibility to administer DNA fragments comprising a multitude of nucleotide sequences which each encode relevant epitopes of the protein fragments and proteins disclosed herein so as to effect a continuous sensitization of the immune system with a broad spectrum of these epitopes.

The following experimental non-limiting examples are intended to illustrate certain features and embodiments of the invention.

LEGENDS TO FIGURES

- Figure 1. The figure shows electron microscopy of negative stained purified *C. pneumoniae* EB (A) and purified OMC (B).
- 15 Figure 2. The figure shows silver stained 15% SDS-PAGE of purified EB and OMC. Lane 1, purified *C. pneumoniae* EB; lane 2, *C. pneumoniae* OMC; lane 3, purified *C. trachomatis* EB; and lane 4 *C. trachomatis* OMC.
- Figure 3. The figure shows immunoblotting of *C. pneumoniae* EB separated by 10% SDS-PAGE, transferred to nitrocellulose and reacted with rabbit anti *C. pneumoniae* OMC.
 - Figure 4. The figure shows coomassie blue stained 7.5% SDS-PAGE of recombinant pEX that were detected by the rabbit anti *C. pneumoniae* serum. Arrow indicated the localization of the 117 kDa b-galactosidase protein.
 - Figure 5. The figure shows immunoblotting of recombinant pEX colones detected by colony blotting separated by 7.5% SDS-PAGE and transferred to nitrocellulose and reacted with rabbit anti *C. pneumoniae* OMC. Lane 1, seablue molecular weight standard. Lane 2-6 pEX clones cultivated at 42°C to

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induce the production of the b-galactosidase fusion proteins.

Figure 6. The figure shows assembled pEX contics.

Figure 7. The figure shows sequence strategy for omp4 and omp5. Arrows indicates primers used for sequencing.

5 Figure 8. The figure shows alignment of *C. pneumoniae* Omp4 and Omp5, using the program pileup in the GCG package.

Figure 9. The figure shows immunofluorescence of *C*. pneumoniae infected HeLa, 72 hrs. after infection, reacted with mouse monospecific anti-serum against pEX3-36 fusion protein. pEX3-36 is a part of the omp5 gene.

Figure 10. The figure shows immunoblotting of *C. pneumoniae* EB, lane 1-3 heated to 100°C in SDS-sample buffer, lane 4-6 unheated. Lane 1 reacted with rabbit anti *C. pneumoniae* OMC; lane 2 and 4 pre-serum; lane 3 and 5 polyclonal rabbit anti pEX1-1 fusion protein; lane 6 MAb 26.1.

Figure 11. The figure shows immunoblotting of *C. pneumoniae*EB, lane 1-4 heated to 100oC in SDS-sample buffer, lane 5-6
unheated. Reacted with serum from C57-black mice 14 days
after infection with 10⁷ CFU of *C. pneumoniae*. Lane 1 and 5
20 mouse 1; lane 2 and 6 mouse 2; lane 3 and 5 mouse 3; and lane
4 and 8 mouse 4.

Figure 12. The figure shows alignment of *C. pneumoniae* Omp4, Omp5, Omp6 and Omp7 using the program pileup in the GCG package.

EXAMPLE 1

Cloning of the genes encoding the 98/95 kDa C. pneumoniae COMC proteins

Purification of C. pneumonia EBs and COMC

C. pneumoniae was cultivated in HeLa cells. Cultivation was done according to the specifications of Miyashita and Matsumoto (1992), with the modification that centrifugation of supernatant and of the later precipitate and turbid bottom layer was carried out at 100,000 X g. The microorganism 10 attached to the HeLa cells by 30 minutes of centrifugation at 1000 x g, after which the cells were incubated in RPMI 1640 medium (Gibco BRL, Germany cat No. 51800-27), containing 5% foetal calf serum (FCS, Gibco BRL, Germany Cat No. 10106.169) gentamicin for two hours at 37°C in 5% CO2 atmosphere. The 15 medium was changed to medium that in addition contained 1 mg per ml of cycloheximide. After 48 hours of incubation a coverslip was removed from the cultures and the inclusion was tested with an antibody specific for C. pneumoniae (MAb 26.1) (Christiansen et al. 1994) and a monoclonal antibody specific 20 for the species C. trachomatis (MAb 32.3, Loke diagnostics, Århus Denmark) to ensure that no contamination with C.trachomatis had occurred. The HeLa cells were tested by Hoechst stain for Mycoplasma contamination as well as by culture in BEa and BEg medium (Freund et al., 1979). Also the 25 C. pneumoniae stocks were also tested for Mycoplasma contamination by cultivation in BEa and BEg medium. No contamination with C. trachomatis, Mycoplasmas or bacteria were detected in cultures or cells. 72 hours post-infection the monolayer was washed in PBS, the cells were loosened in PBS with a rubber policeman, and the Chlamydia were liberated from the host cell by sonication. The C. pneumoniae EBs and RBs were purified on discontinuous density gradients (Miyashita et al. (1992)). The purity of the Chlamydia EBs were verified by negative staining and electronmicroscopy (Figure 1), only particles of a size of 0.3 to 0.5 mm were 35

detected in agreement with the structure of *C. pneumonia* EBs. The purified Chlamydia EBs were subjected to sarkosyl extraction as described by Caldwell et al (1981) with the modification that a brief sonication was used to suspend the COMC. The purified COMC was tested by electronmicroscopy and negative staining (Figure 1), where a folded outer membrane complex was seen.

SDS-PAGE analysis of purified EBs and COMC

The proteins from purified EBs and C. pneumoniae OMC were separated on 15% SDS-polyacrylamide gel, and the gel was 10 silver stained (Figure 2), in lane 1 it is seen that the purified EBs contain major proteins of 98/95 kDa and a protein of 38 kDa, in the purified COMC (lane 2) these two protein groups are also dominant. In addition, proteins with 15 a molecular weight of 62/60 kDa, 55 kDa, and 12 kDa have been enriched in the COMC preparation. When the purified C. pneumoniae EBs are compared to purified C. trachomatis EB (lane 3) it is seen that predominant protein in the C. trachomatis EB is the major outer membrane protein (MOMP), and it is also the dominant band in the COMC preparation of 20 C. trachomatis (lane 4), and Omp2 of 60/62 kDa as well as Omp3 at 12 kDa are seen in the preparation. However, no major bands with a size of 98/95 kDa are detected as in the C. pneumoniae COMC preparation.

25 Production of rabbit polyclonal antibodies against C. pneumoniae COMC

To ensure production of rabbit antibodies that would recognize all the *C. pneumoniae* proteins in immuno-blotting and colony-blotting 10 μ g of COMC antigen was dissolved in 20 μ l of SDS sample buffer and thereafter divided into 5 vials. The dissolved antigen was further diluted in one ml of PBS and one ml of Freund incomplete adjuvant (Difco laboratories, USA cat. No. 0639-60-6) and injected into the quadrisceps muscle of a New Zealand white rabbit. The rabbit was given

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three times intramuscular injections at an interval of one week, and after further three weeks the dissolved COMC protein, diluted in one ml PBS was injected intravenously, and the procedure was repeated two weeks later. Eleven weeks after the beginning of the immunization, the serum was obtained from the rabbit. Purified *C. pneumoniae* EBs were separated by SDS-PAGE, and the proteins were electrotransferred to nitrocellulose membrane. The membrane was blocked and immunostained with the polyclonal COMC antibody (Figure 3). The serum recognized proteins with a size of 98/95, 60 and 38 kDa in the EB preparation. This is in agreement with the sizes of the outer membrane proteins.

Cloning of the COMC proteins

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Due to the cultivation of C. pneumoniae in HeLa cells, 15 contaminating host cell DNA could be present in the EB preparations. Therefore, the purified EB preparations were treated with DNAse to remove contaminating DNA. The C. pneumoniae DNA was then purified by CsCl gradient centrifugation. The C. pneumoniae DNA was partially digested 20 with Sau3A and the fractions containing DNA fragments with a size of approx. 0.5 to 4.0 kb were cloned into the expression vector system pEX (Boehringer, Germany cat. No. 1034 766, 1034 774, 1034 782). The pEX vector system has a eta-galactosidase gene with multiple cloning sites in the 3'end of the β -galactosidase gene. Expression of the gene is regulated by the PR promoter, so the protein expression can be induced by elevating the temperature from 32 to 42°C. The colonies of recombinant bacteria were transferred to nitrocellulose membranes, and the temperature was increased 30 to 42°C for two hours. The bacteria were lysed by placing the nitrocellulose membranes on filters soaked in 5% SDS. The colonies expressing outer membrane proteins were detected with the polyclonal antibody raised against C. pneumoniae COMC. The positive clones were cultivated in suspension and induced at 42°C for two hours. The protein profile of the 35 clones were analysed by SDS-PAGE, and increases in the size

of the induced b-galactosidase were observed (Figure 4). In addition, the proteins were electrotransferred to nitrocellulose membranes, and the reaction with the polyclonal serum against COMC was confirmed (Figure 5).

5 Sequencing of positive COMC clones

To characterize the pEX clones, the inserted C. pneumoniae DNA was sequenced. The resulting DNA sequences were searched against the prokaryotic sequences in the GenEmbl database. The search identified 6 clones as part of the omp2 gene, and 2 clones as part of the omp3 gene, and 2 clones as part of the MOMP gene, indicating that COMC proteins had been successfully cloned. Furthermore, 32 clones were obtained, containing DNA sequences not found in the GenEmbl database. These sequences could, however, be clustered in two contics 15 of 6 and 4 clones, and three clones were identical. In addition 19 clones were found with no overlap to the contics (Figure 6). To obtain more sequence data for the genes, C. pneumoniae DNA was totally digested with BamHI restriction enzyme, and the fragments were cloned into the vector 20 pBluescript. The ligated DNA was electrotransformed into E. coli XL1-Blue and selected on plates containing Ampicillin. The recombinant bacterial colonies were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane, and colony hybridisation was performed using the inserts of pEX 1-1 clone as a probe. A 25 clone containing a single BamHI fragment of 4.5 kb was found, and the hybridisation to the probe was confirmed by Southern blotting. The insert of the clone was sequenced bi-directionally using synthetic primers for approx. each 300 bp. The sequence of the BamHI fragment made it possible to 30 join the two contics of pEX clones. Totally, together with the pEX clones it was possible to assemble 6.5 kb DNA sequence, encoding two new COMC proteins (Figure 7).

Analysis of DNA sequence

The 6.5 kb DNA sequence encoded 2 proteins with a size of 98 kDa. The genes were transcribed in opposite directions. The genes were named omp4 and omp5 (Figure 7). Downstream omp4 a 5 possible termination structure was located. The 3'end of the omp5 gene was not cloned due to the presence of the BamHI restriction enzyme site positioned within the gene. The translated DNA sequence of omp4 and omp5 was compared by use of the gap programme in the GCG package (Wisconsin package, version 8.1-UNIX, August 1995, sequence analysis software package) (Figure 8). The two genes had an amino acid identity of 41% (homology 61%), and a possible cleavage site for signal peptidase 1 was present at amino acid 17 in Omp4 and amino acid 25 in Omp5. When the amino acid sequence encoded 15 by two other pEX clones were compared to the sequence of omp4 and omp5 they also had amino acid homology to the genes. It is seen that the two clones have homology to the same area in the omp4 and omp5 proteins. Consequently, the pEX clones must have originated from two additional genes. Therefore these genes were named omp6 and omp7. Multiple alignment of the four genes showed in addition that omp6 had a deletion in the sequence. The area deleted in omp6 is a sequence coding for 225 amino acids. A sequence of the amino acids GGAI (Gly, Gly, Ala, Ile) was present 6 times in the sequence. These 25 repeats were conserved in both omp4 and omp5.

EXAMPLE 2

Polyclonal monospecific antibodies against pEX fusion proteins

To investigate the topology of the Omp4-7 proteins, representative pEX clones, were selected from each gene. The fusion proteins of β -galactosidase/Omp were induced, and the proteins were partially purified as inclusion bodies. Balb/c mice were immunized three times intramuscular with the antigens at an interval of one week, and after six weeks the

serum was obtained from the mice. HeLa cells were infected with the C. pneumoniae. 72 hours after the infection the mono-layers were fixed with 3.7% formaldehyde. This treatment makes the outer membrane of the Chlamydia impermeable for 5 antibodies due to the extensive cross-linking of the outer membrane proteins by the formaldehyde. The HeLa cells were permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X100, the monolayers were washed in PBS, then incubated with 20% (v/v) FCS to inactivate free radicals of the formaldehyde. The mice sera were diluted 1:100 PBS with 20% (v/v) FCS and incubated with 10 the monolayers for half an hour. The monolayers were washed in PBS and secondary FITCH conjugated rabbit anti mouse serum was added for half an hour, and the monolayers were washed and mounted. Several of the antibodies reacted strongly with the EBs in the inclusions (Figure 9). In spite of the 15 formaldehyde fixation it could not be excluded that the surface of the EB was changed by the treatments, so that the antibodies could get access to the Omp4-7. Therefore, the reaction was confirmed by immuno-electron microscopy with the antibody raised against clone pEX3-36. Purified EB of C. 20 pneumoniae were absorbed to carbon coated nickel grids. After the absorption the grids were washed with PBS and blocked in 0.5% Ovalbumin dissolved in PBS. The antibodies were diluted 1:100 in the same buffer and incubated for 30 minutes. The grids were washed in PBS. Rabbit anti mouse Ig conjugated 25 with 10nm colloidal gold diluted in PBS containing 1% gelatin was added to the grids for half an hour. The grids were washed in 3 x PBS with 1% qelatin and 3 times in PBS, the grids were contrastained with 0.7% phospho tungstic acid. The grids were analysed in a Jeol 1010 electron microscope at 40 kV. It was seen that the gold particles were covering the surface of the purified EB. Because the C. pneumoniae EBs were not exposed to any detergent or fixation under either the purification or the reaction with antibodies, these 35 results show that the cloned proteins have surface exposed epitopes.

Immuno blotting analysis with hyperimmune monospecific rabbit anti-serum

The insert of pEX1-1 clone was amplified by PCR using primers containing LIC sites. The PCR product could therefore be 5 inserted in the pET-32 LIC vector (Novagen, UK cat No. 69076-1). Thereby the insert sequence of the pEX1-1 clone was expressed in the new vector as a fusion protein, the part of the fusion protein encoded by the pET-32 LIC vector had 6 histidin residues in a row. The expression of the fusion protein was induced in this vector, and the fusion protein 10 could be purified under denaturing condition on a Ni2+ column due to the high affinity of the histidine residues to divalent cations. The purified protein was used for immunization of a New Zealand white rabbit. After 6 times 15 intramuscular and 2 times intravenous immunization the serum was obtained from the rabbit. Purified C. pneumoniae EB was dissolved in SDS-sample buffer. Half of the sample was heated to 100°C in the sample buffer, whereas the other half of the sample was not heated. The samples were separated by 20 SDS-PAGE, and the proteins were transferred to nitrocellulose, the serum was reacted with the strips. With the samples heated to 100°C the serum recognized a high molecular weight band of approximately 98 kDa. This is in agreement with the predicted size of Omp5, of which the 25 pEX1-1 clone is a part, however, when the antibody was reacted to the strip with unheated EB, the pattern was different. Now a band was seen with a size of 75 kDa, in addition weaker bands were observed above the band (Figure 10). These data demonstrate that Omp5 needs boiling in 30 SDS-sample buffer to be fully denatured and migrate with a size as predicted from the gene product. When the samples were not boiled, the protein was not fully denatured and less SDS binds to the protein and it has a more globular structure that will migrate faster in the acrylamide gel. The band pattern looked identical to what was obtained with a monoclonal antibody (MAb 26.1) (lane 6), we earlier have

described (Christiansen et al., 1994), reacting with the

surface of *C. pneumoniae* EB, but the antibody do not react with the fully SDS denatured *C. pneumoniae* EB in immunoblotting.

Experimental infection of C57 black mice

Due to the realization of the altered migration of the Omp4-7 proteins without boiling, we chose to analyse antibodies against C. pneumoniae EBs after an experimental infection of mice. To obtain antibodies from an infection caused by C. pneumoniae, C57 black mice were inoculated intranasally with 107 CFI of *C. pneumoniae* under a light ether anaesthesia. After 14 days of infection the serum samples were obtained and the lungs were analysed for pathological changes. In two of the mice a severe pneumonia was observed in the lung sections, and in the third mouse only minor changes were observed. The serum from the mice was diluted 1:100 and 15 reacted with purified EBs dissolved in sample buffer with and without boiling. In the preparations that had been heated to 100°C the sera from two of the mice reacted strongly with bands of 60/62 kDa and weaker bands of 55 kDa, but no 20 reaction was observed with proteins of the size of Omp4-7 (Figure 11). However, when the sera were reacted with the preparation that had not been heated they all had a strong reaction with a broad band of an approximate size of 75 kDa. This is in agreement with the size of the Omp4-7 proteins in the unheated preparation. Therefore, it could be concluded 25 that the epitopes of the Omp4-7 proteins recognized by the antibodies after a C. pneumoniae infection were discontinuous epitopes because the full denaturation of the antigen completely destroyed the epitopes. The 75 kDa protein 30 observed in unheated samples is not Omp2 (Shown in immunoblotting with an Omp2 specific antibody)

EXAMPLE 3

Comparison of Omp4-7 of *C. pneumoniae* with putative outer membrane proteins (POMP) of *C. psittaci*

Longbottom et al. (1996) have published partial sequence from 98 to 90 kDa proteins from C. psittaci. They have entered the full sequence of 5 genes in this family in the EMBL database. They have named the genes "putative outer membrane proteins" (POMP) since their precise location was not determined. The family is composed of two genes that are completely 10 identical, and two genes with high homology to these genes. They calculated a molecular size of 90 and 91 kDa. The 5th encode a protein of 98 kDa. The sequence of the Omp4-7 proteins of C. pneumoniae were compared to the sequences of the C. Psittaci POMP proteins with the programme pileup inthe GCG package. The amino acid homologies were in the range of 51-63%. It is seen that the C. pneumoniae Omp4-5 proteins are most related to the 98 kDa POMP protein of C. psittaci. Interestingly, the 98 kDa C. psittaci POMP protein is more related to the C. pneumoniae genes than to the other C. psittaci genes. The repeated sequences of GGAI were conserved 20 in the 98 kDa POMP protein, but only three GGAI repeats were present in the 90 and 91 kDa C. psittaci POMP proteins. For C.psittaci it has been shown that antibodies to these proteins seem to be protective for the infection.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

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١		WELTIT CHAIL	

- (A) NAME: Svend Birkelund
- (B) STREET: Dept. of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, University of Århus
- (C) CITY: Arhus C
- (D) STATE OR PROVINCE:
- (E) COUNTRY: Denmark
- (F) POSTAL CODE: 8000
- (ii) TITLE OF THE INVENTION: Chlamydia pneumoniae anti gens
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 8
- (iv) COMPUTER-READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM Compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: FastSEQ for Windows Version 2.0
- (v) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
 - (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:
- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 3200 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ix) FEATURE:
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 - (B) LOCATION: 205...2987
 - (D) OTHER INFORMATION:
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 928 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

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_		_	100					105				Thr	110		
		115					120					Asp 125			
	130					135		_			140	Ser			
	Asn	Leu	Glu	Asn	Ile 150	Arg	Lys	Leu	Val	Val 155	Ala	Gly	Asn	Phe	Ser 160
145	7.1.	λαν	G1++	Glar		Tla	Tare	Glaz	λla		Dhe	Leu	T.011	Thr	
1111	AIG	тор	Cry	165	ALU			01,	170					175	U -1
			180					185				Ser	190		
_		195					200					Asn 205			
_	210	_				215					220	Gly			
_	Asp	Glu	Gly	Thr		Ile	Leu	Ser	Asn		Lys	Phe	Leu	Tyr	
225	G1	7.00	חות	חות	230	mb~	Th ~	Glar.	Glaz	235	Tle	Сув	λan	Thr	240
				245					250					255	
		•	260					265				Lys	270		
		275					280					Ile 285			
_	290					295					300	Leu			
Val 305	Ser	Ser	Ala	Thr	Pro 310	Lys	Gly	Gly	Ala	Ile 315	Ser	Ile	Asp	Ala	Ser 320
Gly	Glu	Leu	Ser	Leu 325	Ser	Ala	Glu	Thr	Gly 330	Asn	Ile	Thr	Phe	Val 335	Arg

Asn	Thr	Leu	Thr	Thr	Thr	Gly	Ser	Thr 345	Asp	Thr	Pro	Lys	Arg 350	Asn	Ala
Ile	Asn	Ile 355		Ser	Asn	Gly	Lys 360	Phe	Thr	Glu	Leu	Arg 365	Ala	Ala	Lys
Asn	His 370		Ile	Phe	Phe	Tyr 375		Pro	Ile	Thr	Ser 380		Gly	Thr	Ser
		Val	Leu	Lys			Asn	Gly	Ser			Ala	Leu	Asn	Pro
385					390					395					
Tyr	Gln	Gly	Thr	Ile 405	Leu	Phe	Ser	Gly	Glu 410	Thr	Leu	Thr	Ala	Asp 415	Glu
Leu	Lys	Val	Ala 420	Asp	Asn	Leu	Lys	Ser 425	Ser	Phe	Thr	Gln	Pro 430	Val	Ser
Leu	Ser	Gly 435	Gly	Lys	Leu	Leu	Leu 440	Gln	Lys	Gly	Val	Thr 445	Leu	Glu	Ser
Thr	Ser 450	Phe	Ser	Gln	Glu	Ala 455	Gly	Ser	Leu	Leu	Gly 460	Met	Asp	Ser	Gly
Thr	Thr	T.e.11	Ser	Thr	Thr	Δla	Glv	Ser	TIE	Thr	Tle	Thr	Δsn	T.e.11	Glv
					470		1			475					480
465	_		_	_			_	_				_			
			_	485		_		Lys	490					495	
_	-		500		_			Val 505		-			510		
		515					520	Ser				525			
Leu	Phe 530	Ser	Leu	Leu	Lys	Ile 535	Thr	Val	Asp	Ala	Asp 540	Val	Asp	Thr	Asn
Val	Asp	Ile	Ser	Ser	Leu	Ile	Pro	Val	Pro	Ala	Glu	Asp	Pro	Asn	Ser
545	~				550					555		•			560
	m	C1	Dha	C1 -		C1-	M	7	7707	-	T	mb ~	mb	7 ~~	
	_	_		565	_		_	Asn	570		_			575	
			580	_				Ala 585		_		_	590		
		595			_	-	600	Ala			-	605			
_	610			_		615		Leu			620				_
Ala	Thr	Gly	Met	Glu	His	Lys	Gln	Gly	Phe	Trp	Val	Ser	Ser	Met	Thr
625					630					635					640
Asn	Phe	Leu	His	Lys 645	Thr	Gly	Asp	Glu	Asn 650	Arg	Lys	Gly	Phe	Arg 655	His
Thr	Ser	Gly	Gly 660	Tyr	Val	Ile	Gly	Gly 665	Ser	Ala	His	Thr	Pro 670	Lys	Asp
Asp	Leu	Phe 675	Thr	Phe	Ala	Phe	Cys 680	His	Leu	Phe	Ala	Arg 685	Asp	Lys	Asp
Сув	Phe 690	Ile	Ala	His	Asn	Asn 695	Ser	Arg	Thr	Tyr	Gly 700	Gly	Thr	Leu	Phe
Phe		Hie	Sar	Hic	Thr		Gln	Pro	Gln	λen		T.Ou	λνα	T.e.ii	Glv
705					710					715	_				720
Arg	AIA	гуѕ	Pne	725	GIU	ser	Ala	Ile	730	гув	Pne	Pro	Arg	735	TIE
Pro	Leu	Ala	Leu 740	Asp	Val	Gln	Val	Ser .745	Phe	Ser	His	Ser	Asp 750	Asn	Arg
Met	Glu	Thr 755	His	Tyr	Thr	Ser	Leu 760	Pro	Glu	Ser	Glu	Gly 765	Ser	Trp	Ser
Asn	Glu 770		Ile	Ala	Gly	Gly 775		Gly	Leu	Asp	Leu 780		Phe	Val	Leu
Ser		Pro	His	Pro	Leu		Lvs	Thr	Phe	Ile		Gln	Met	Lvs	Val
785					790		_, _			795	0			-1-	800

Glu	Met	Val	Tyr	Val 805	Ser	Gln	Asn	Ser	Phe 810	Phe	Glu	Ser	Ser	Ser 815	Asp
Gly	Arg	Gly	Phe 820	Ser	Ile	Gly	Arg	Leu 825	Leu	Asn	Leu	Ser	Ile 830	Pro	Val
Gly	Ala	Lys 835	Phe	Val	Gln	Gly	Asp 840	Ile	Gly	Asp	Ser	Tyr 845	Thr	Tyr	Asp
Leu	Ser 850	Gly	Phe	Phe	Val	Ser 855	Asp	Val	Tyr	Arg	Asn 860	Asn	Pro	Gln	Ser
Thr 865	Ala	Thr	Leu	Val	Met 870	Ser	Pro	Asp	Ser	Trp 875	Lys	Ile	Arg	Gly	Gly 880
Asn	Leu	Ser	Arg	Gln 885	Ala	Phe	Leu	Leu	Arg 890	Gly	Ser	Asn	Asn	Tyr 895	Val
Tyr	Asn	Ser	Asn 900	Сув	Glu	Leu	Phe	Gly 905	His	Tyr	Ala	Met	Glu 910	Leu	Arg
Gly	Ser	Ser 915	Arg	Asn	Tyr	Asn	Val 920	Asp	Val	Gly	Thr	Lys 925	Leu	Arg	Phe

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 3000 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: Coding Sequence
- (B) LOCATION: 259...3000
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION:

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

				-
GGAGGAAACT AAAACCCA	AG GAATCGAAG	T CTTCATGGTA	ATGCTTTTGT TTTTTAGAGA	120
ACTATTCGCA TCAATATA	GA AACAAAATA	A GTAAATCAAG	TTAAAGATGA CAAAACAGCT	180
GTCAAGAATT TTTATCTT	GA CTCTCTGAG	T TTTCTATTTT	ATATGACGCA AGTAAGAATT	240
TAATAATAAA GTGGGTTT	ATG AAA TCG	CAA TIT TCC	TGG TTA GTG CTC TCT	291
	Met Lys Ser	Gln Phe Ser	Trp Leu Val Leu Ser	
	1	5	10	
TCG ACA TTG GCA TGT	TTT ACT AGT	TGT TCC ACT	GTT TTT GCT GCA ACT	339
Ser Thr Leu Ala Cys	Phe Thr Ser	Cys Ser Thr	Val Phe Ala Ala Thr	
15		20	25	
GCT GAA AAT ATA GGC	CCC TCT GAT	AGC TTT GAC	GGA AGT ACT AAC ACA	387
Ala Glu Asn Ile Glv	Pro Ser Asp	Ser Phe Asp	Gly Ser Thr Asn Thr	
30	35	1	40	
- -				
GGC ACC TAT ACT CCT	AAA AAT ACG	ACT ACT GGA	ATA GAC TAT ACT CTG	435
			Ile Asp Tyr Thr Leu	
45	50		55	
	30			
ልርል ርርል ርልጥ ልጥል ልርጥ	כדה כאם אשר	ርጥጥ ርርር ርልጥ	TCG GCA GCT TTA ACG	483
			Ser Ala Ala Leu Thr	
60	65	70	75	
00		70	,,	

ATCAGGTGAT AAAAGTTCCT CGTTAGCTAG TGACTGTAGG TGACATGAGA AAGCTAACAC

	GGT Gly								531
	TAC Tyr								579
	CTT Leu								627
-	CTT Leu 125								675
	AAA Lys								723
	ACT Thr								771
	TCT Ser								819
	GAA Glu								867
	GCT Ala 205								915
	TCG Ser								963
	AAC Asn								1011
	GTG Val								1059
	GTT Val								1107
	GTA Val 285								1155

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					GGT Gly 305											1203
					GGT Gly											1251
					GAA Glu											1299
					CCA Pro											1347
					ATC Ile											1395
Ile 380	Phe	Phe	Tyr	Asp	CCG Pro 385	Ile	Thr	Ala	Asn	Thr 390	Ala	Ala	Asp	Ser	Thr 395	1443
					AAT Asn											1491
					TTT Phe											1539
					CTC Leu											1587
					GTA Val											1635
					GCG Ala 465											1683
					ACA Thr											1731
					GGC Gly											1779
GCA Ala	GCA	AGT	AAA	AAT	GTA	GCC	CTT	AGT	GGT	CCG	ATT	CTT	CTT	TTG	GAT	1827

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		TAT Tyr						1875
		CTC Leu 545						1923
		ACA Thr						1971
		ACT Thr						2019
_		TTA Leu						2067
		CCT Pro						2115
		ATT Ile 625						2163
		GGC Gly						2211
		GGG Gly						2259
		GGT Gly						2307
	 	 CAA Gln	 	 		 _		2355
		GAT Asp 705						2403
		GGG Gly						2451
		AAA Lys						2499

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		AAT Asn							2547
		TGG Trp							2595
		TAT Tyr							2643
		CTG Leu 800							2691
		GAA Glu							2739
		ATA Ile							2787
		GAT Asp							2835
		TGC Cys							2883
		AAT Asn 880							2931
								TTT Phe	2979
		CGT A rg							3000

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 914 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

Met 1	Lys	Ser	Gln	Phe 5	Ser	Trp	Leu	Val	Leu 10	Ser	Ser	Thr	Leu	Ala 15	Cys
Phe	Thr	Ser	Сув 20	Ser	Thr	Val	Phe	Ala 25	Ala	Thr	Ala	Glu	Asn 30	Ile	Gly
Pro	Ser	Asp 35	Ser	Phe	Asp	Gly	Ser 40	Thr	Asn	Thr	Gly	Thr 45	Tyr	Thr	Pro
-	Asn 50				_	55 :	-				60	-	-		
65	Gln				70					75	-	_	_		80
Asp	Thr	Thr	Glu	Ser 85	Leu	Ser	Phe	Ala	Gly 90	Lys	Gly	Tyr	Ser	Leu 95	Ser
	Leu		100	-				105	-				110		
Thr	Asp	Lys 115	Asn	Leu	Ser	Leu	Thr 120	Gly	Phe	Ser	Ser	Leu 125	Thr	Phe	Leu
	Ala 130					135					140	-	•		
145	Сув				150					155	_				160
	Gln			165					170					175	
	Ser		180					185					190		
	Ser	195					200				_	205		_	
	Asp 210					215					220				
225	Glu				230					235					240
	Gly			245					250					255	
	Gly		260					265					270		
	Asn	275					280					285			_
	Ala 290					295					300		_	_	
305	Ile				310					315					320
Gly	Gly	Ala	Ile	Ser 325	Ile	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gly 330	Glu	Cys	Ser	Leu	Ser 335	Ala
Glu	Ala	Gly	Asp 340	Ile	Thr	Phe	Asn	Gly 345	Asn	Ala	Ile	Val	Ala 350	Thr	Thr

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Pro Gln Thr Thr Lys Arg Asn Ser Ile Asp Ile Gly Ser Thr Ala Lys 360 Ile Thr Asn Leu Arg Ala Ile Ser Gly His Ser Ile Phe Phe Tyr Asp 380 375 Pro Ile Thr Ala Asn Thr Ala Ala Asp Ser Thr Asp Thr Leu Asn Leu 390 395 Asn Lys Ala Asp Ala Gly Asn Ser Thr Asp Tyr Ser Gly Ser Ile Val 410 405 Phe Ser Gly Glu Lys Leu Ser Glu Asp Glu Ala Lys Val Ala Asp Asn 425 Leu Thr Ser Thr Leu Lys Gln Pro Val Thr Leu Thr Ala Gly Asn Leu 445 440 Val Leu Lys Arg Gly Val Thr Leu Asp Thr Lys Gly Phe Thr Gln Thr 455 Ala Gly Ser Ser Val Ile Met Asp Ala Gly Thr Thr Leu Lys Ala Ser 475 470 Thr Glu Glu Val Thr Leu Thr Gly Leu Ser Ile Pro Val Asp Ser Leu 490 Gly Glu Gly Lys Lys Val Val Ile Ala Ala Ser Ala Ala Ser Lys Asn 505 Val Ala Leu Ser Gly Pro Ile Leu Leu Leu Asp Asn Gln Gly Asn Ala 520 Tyr Glu Asn His Asp Leu Gly Lys Thr Gln Asp Phe Ser Phe Val Gln 540 535 Leu Ser Ala Leu Gly Thr Ala Thr Thr Thr Asp Val Pro Ala Val Pro 550 555 Thr Val Ala Thr Pro Thr His Tyr Gly Tyr Gln Gly Thr Trp Gly Met 570 565 Thr Trp Val Asp Asp Thr Ala Ser Thr Pro Lys Thr Lys Thr Ala Thr 585 Leu Ala Trp Thr Asn Thr Gly Tyr Leu Pro Asn Pro Glu Arg Gln Gly 605 600 Pro Leu Val Pro Asn Ser Leu Trp Gly Ser Phe Ser Asp Ile Gln Ala 620 615 Ile Gln Gly Val Ile Glu Arg Ser Ala Leu Thr Leu Cys Ser Asp Arg 630 635 Gly Phe Trp Ala Ala Gly Val Ala Asn Phe Leu Asp Lys Asp Lys Lys 650 645 Gly Glu Lys Arg Lys Tyr Arg His Lys Ser Gly Gly Tyr Ala Ile Gly 665 Gly Ala Ala Gln Thr Cys Ser Glu Asn Leu Ile Ser Phe Ala Phe Cys 680 Gln Leu Phe Gly Ser Asp Lys Asp Phe Leu Val Ala Lys Asn His Thr 695 Asp Thr Tyr Ala Gly Ala Phe Tyr Ile Gln His Ile Thr Glu Cys Ser 715 710 Gly Phe Ile Gly Cys Leu Leu Asp Lys Leu Pro Gly Ser Trp Ser His 725 730 Lys Pro Leu Val Leu Glu Gly Gln Leu Ala Tyr Ser His Val Ser Asn 740 Asp Leu Lys Thr Lys Tyr Thr Ala Tyr Pro Glu Val Lys Gly Ser Trp 760 -Gly Asn Asn Ala Phe Asn Met Met Leu Gly Ala Ser Ser His Ser Tyr 775 780 Pro Glu Tyr Leu His Cys Phe Asp Thr Tyr Ala Pro Tyr Ile Lys Leu 790 795 Asn Leu Thr Tyr Ile Arg Gln Asp Ser Phe Ser Glu Lys Gly Thr Glu 805 810

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1200 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: Coding Sequence
- (B) LOCATION: 1...1200
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION:

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

						CTC Leu				48
						TCT Ser				96
						AAA Lys			_	144
						TCG Ser 60		_		192
						GAC Asp				240
						TCC Ser				288

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ATT Ile											336
 GAA Glu		_			_	_	_				384
 AAT Asn 130											432
 AGT Ser	-										480
GGT Gly											528
 GTT Val		_	_	 							576
 AAA Lys	_			_		_			_	_	624
GTC Val 210											672
ACA Thr											720
TCT Ser					_				_		768
GTT Val											816
GCA Ala											864
AAC Asn 290											912
TCC Ser											960

					AAT Asn		_	1008
 		 	 	 	AAT Asn			1056
			 		TGG Trp			1104
			 		TTG Leu 380			1152
 	 	 	 	 	 AAA Lys	 		1200

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 400 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

Asp 1	Pro	Lys	Asn	Lys 5	Glu	Tyr	Thr	Gly	Thr 10	Ile	Leu	Phe	Ser	Gly 15	Glu
Lys	Ser	Leu	Ala 20	Asn	Asp	Pro	Arg	Asp 25	Phe	Lys	Ser	Thr	Ile 30	Pro	Gln
Asn	Val	Asn 35	Leu	Ser	Ala	Gly	Tyr 40	Leu	Val	Ile	Lys	Glu 45	Gly	Ala	Glu
Val	Thr 50	Val	Ser	Lys	Phe	Thr 55	Gln	Ser	Pro	Gly	Ser 60	His	Leu	Val	Leu
Asp 65	Leu	Gly	Thr	Lys	Leu 70	Ile	Ala	Ser	Lys	Glu 75	Asp	Ile	Ala	Ile	Thr 80
Gly	Leu	Ala	Ile	Asp 85	Ile	Asp	Ser	Leu	Ser 90	Ser	Ser	Ser	Thr	Ala 95	Ala
Val	Ile	Lys	Ala 100	Asn	Thr	Ala	Asn	Lys 105	Gln	Ile	Ser	Val	Thr 110	qaA	Ser
Ile	Glu	Leu 115	Ile	Ser	Pro	Thr	Gly 120	naA	Ala	Tyr	Glu	Asp 125	Leu	Arg	Met
Arg	Asn 130	Ser	Gln	Thr	Phe	Pro 135	Leu	Leu	Ser	Leu	Glu 140	Pro	Gly	Ala	Gly
Gly 145	Ser	Val	Thr	Val	Thr 150	Ala	Gly	Asp	Phe	Leu 155	Pro	Val	Ser	Pro	His 160
Tyr	Gly	Phe	Gln	Gly 165	Asn	Trp	Lys	Leu	Ala 170	Trp	Thr	Gly	Thr	Gly 175	Asn

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Lys	Val	Gly	Glu 180	Phe	Phe	Trp	Asp	Lys 185	Ile	Asn	Tyr	Lys	Pro 190	Arg	Pro
Glu	Lys	Glu 195	Gly	Asn	Leu	Val	Pro 200	Asn	Ile	Leu	Trp	Gly 205	Asn	Ala	Val
Asn	Val 210	Arg	Ser	Leu	Met	Gln 215	Val	Gln	Glu	Thr	His 220	Ala	Ser	Ser	Leu
Gln 225	Thr	Asp	Arg	Gly	Leu 230	Trp	Ile	Asp	Gly	Ile 235	Gly	Asn	Phe	Phe	His 240
Val	Ser	Ala	Ser	Glu 245	qaA	Asn	Ile	Arg	Tyr 250	Arg	His	Asn	Ser	Gly 255	Gly
Tyr	Val	Leu	Ser 260	Val	Asn	Asn	Glu	Ile 265	Thr	Pro	Lys	His	Tyr 270	Thr	Ser
Met	Ala	Phe 275	Ser	Gln	Leu	Phe	Ser 280	Arg	Asp	Lys	Asp	Tyr 285	Ala	Val	Ser
Asn	Asn 290	Glu	Tyr	Arg	Met	Tyr 295	Leu	Gly	Ser	Tyr	Leu 300	Tyr	Gln	Tyr	Thr
Thr 305	Ser	Leu	Gly	Asn	Ile 310	Phe	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Ser 315	Arg	Asn	Pro	Asn	Val
Asn	Val	Gly	Ile	Leu 325	Ser	Arg	Arg	Phe	Leu 330	Gln	Asn	Pro	Leu	Met 335	Il∈
Phe	His	Phe	Leu 340	Сув	Ala	Tyr	Gly	His 345	Ala	Thr	Asn	Asp	Met 350	Lys	Thr
Asp	Tyr	Ala 355	Asn	Phe	Pro	Met	Val 360	Lys	Asn	Ser	Trp	Arg 365	Asn	Asn	Сув
Trp	Ala 370	Ile	Lys	Сув	Gly	Gly 375	Ser	Met	Pro	Leu	Leu 380	Val	Phe	Glu	Asr
Gly 385	Lys	Leu	Phe	Gln	Gly 390	Ala	Ile	Pro	Phe	Met 395	Lys	Leu	Gln	Leu	Val

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 1830 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA
- (ix) FEATURE:
 - (A) NAME/KEY: Coding Sequence
 - (B) LOCATION: 1...1830
 - (D) OTHER INFORMATION:

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

_	-			_	AGT Ser	 	 	 	 48
					ACT Thr 25				96
					ATA Ile	 	 	 	 144

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				AAC Asn				192
				TTT Phe				240
				ACA Thr				288
				ATG Met 105				336
				GAT Asp				384
				ACA Thr				432
				ACT Thr				480
				AAG Lys				528
				TTA Leu 185				576
				GAT Asp				624
				TTG Leu				672
				GAG Glu				720
				AAG Lys			 	 768
				CGT Arg 265				816

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					GAG Glu			864
					ATC Ile 300		_	912
					TAT Tyr			960
					AAA Lys			1008
					CAG Gln			1056
					GTT Val			1104
					TAC Tyr 380			1152
					AGC Ser			1200
					GTA Val			1248
					GGT Gly			1296
					AAT Asn			1344
					TCC Ser 460			1392
					GAG Glu			1440
					GGG Gly			1488

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GGC CAT	_					1536
CCG ACG Pro Thr		r Ser				1584
GGA GAG Gly Glu 530						1632
TTT TTC Phe Phe . 545			 	 	 	 1680
CGC CAA						1728
GAT TCG Asp Ser						1776
AAA CGG		r His		 		 1824
GAT GTT Asp Val 610						1830

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 610 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid

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- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

 Asp
 Leu
 Thr
 Leu
 Gly
 Ser
 Arg
 Asp
 Ser
 Tyr
 Asp
 Gly
 Asp
 Thr
 Ser
 Thr

 Thr
 Glu
 Phe
 Thr
 Pro
 Lys
 Ala
 Ala
 Thr
 Ser
 Asp
 Ala
 Ser
 Gly
 Thr
 Thr

```
Phe Ser Gly Phe Ser Thr Leu Arg Met Leu Ala Ala Pro Arg Thr Thr
                                105
            100
Gly Lys Gly Ala Ile Lys Ile Thr Asp Gly Leu Val Phe Glu Ser Ile
                           120
                                                125
Gly Asn Leu Asp Pro Ile Thr Val Thr Gly Ser Thr Ser Val Ala Asp
                       135
Ala Leu Asn Ile Asn Ser Pro Asp Thr Gly Asp Asn Lys Glu Tyr Thr
                                        155
                    150
Gly Thr Ile Val Phe Ser Gly Glu Lys Leu Thr Glu Ala Glu Ala Lys
                                    170
                165
Asp Glu Lys Asn Arg Thr Ser Lys Leu Leu Gln Asn Val Ala Phe Lys
                                185
Asn Gly Thr Val Val Leu Lys Gly Asp Val Val Leu Ser Ala Asn Gly
        195
                            200
Phe Ser Gln Asp Ala Asn Ser Lys Leu Ile Met Asp Leu Gly Thr Ser
                                            220
                        215
Leu Val Ala Asn Thr Glu Ser Ile Glu Leu Thr Asn Leu Glu Ile Asn
                    230
                                        235
Ile Asp Ser Leu Arg Asn Gly Lys Lys Ile Lys Leu Ser Ala Ala Thr
                                    250
                245
Ala Gln Lys Asp Ile Arg Ile Asp Arg Pro Val Val Leu Ala Ile Ser
                                265
            260
Asp Glu Ser Phe Tyr Gln Asn Gly Phe Leu Asn Glu Asp His Ser Tyr
                            280
Asp Gly Ile Leu Glu Leu Asp Ala Gly Lys Asp Ile Val Ile Ser Ala
                        295
Asp Ser Arg Ser Ile Asp Ala Val Gln Ser Pro Tyr Gly Tyr Gln Gly
                    310
                                        315
Lys Trp Thr Ile Asn Trp Ser Thr Asp Asp Lys Lys Ala Thr Val Ser
                325
                                    330
Trp Ala Lys Gln Ser Phe Asn Pro Thr Ala Glu Gln Glu Ala Pro Leu
                                345
Val Pro Asn Leu Leu Trp Gly Ser Phe Ile Asp Val Arg Ser Phe Gln
                            360
Asn Phe Ile Glu Leu Gly Thr Glu Gly Ala Pro Tyr Glu Lys Arg Phe
                        375
                                            380
Trp Val Ala Gly Ile Ser Asn Val Leu His Arg Ser Gly Arg Glu Asn
                    390
                                        395
Gln Arg Lys Phe Arg His Val Ser Gly Gly Ala Val Val Gly Ala Ser
                405
                                    410
Thr Arg Met Pro Gly Gly Asp Thr Leu Ser Leu Gly Phe Ala Gln Leu
                                425
Phe Ala Arg Asp Lys Asp Tyr Phe Met Asn Thr Asn Phe Ala Lys Thr
                            440
Tyr Ala Gly Ser Leu Arg Leu Gln His Asp Ala Ser Leu Tyr Ser Val
                        455
Val Ser Ile Leu Leu Gly Glu Gly Leu Arg Glu Ile Leu Leu Pro
                    470
                                        475
Tyr Val Ser Asn Thr Leu Pro Cys Ser Phe Tyr Gly Gln Leu Ser Tyr
                485
                                    490
Gly His Thr Asp His Arg Met Lys Thr Glu Ser Leu Pro Pro Pro Pro
                                505
Pro Thr Leu Ser Thr Asp His Thr Ser Trp Gly Gly Tyr Val Trp Ala
                            520
                                                525
Gly Glu Leu Gly Thr Arg Val Ala Val Glu Asn Thr Ser Gly Arg Gly
                        535
Phe Phe Arg Glu Tyr Thr Pro Phe Val Lys Val Gln Ala Val Tyr Ser
                                        555
                    550
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Arg Gln Asp Ser Phe Val Glu Leu Gly Ala Ile Ser Arg Asp Phe Ser 565 | 565 | 570 | 570 | 570 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 575 | 57

Claims:

- 1. Species specific diagnostic test for infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said test comprising detecting in a patient sample the presence of antibodies against proteins from the outer membrane of *Clamydia pneumoniae*, said proteins being of a molecular weight of 98/95 kDa, or detecting the presence of nucleic acid fragments encoding said outer membrane proteins.
- 2. Diagnostic test according to claim 1, wherein the outer 10 membrane protein has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
 - 3. Diagnostic test according to claim 1, wherein the outer membrane protein has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 15 4. Diagnostic test according to claim 1, wherein the outer membrane protein has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 5. Diagnostic test according to claim 1, wherein the outer membrane protein has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
 - 6. Diagnostic test according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid fragment has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 7. Diagnostic test according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid fragment has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
 - 8. Diagnostic test according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid fragment has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 or a variant or subsequence thereof.

- 9. Diagnostic test according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid fragment has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 10. Diagnostic test according to any of claims 6-9, wherein detection of nucleic acid fragments is obtained by using nucleic acid amplification.
 - 11. Diagnostic test according to claim 10, wherein detection of nucleic acid fragments is obtained by using polymerase chain reaction.
- 10 12. A nucleic acid fragment derived from Chlamydia pneumoniae comprising the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 1, or a variant or subsequence of said nucleotide sequence which has a sequence homology of at least 50% with SEQ ID NO: 1...
- 13. A nucleic acid fragment derived from Chlamydia

 15 pneumoniae comprising the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 3,
 or a variant or subsequence of said nucleotide sequence which
 has a sequence homology of at least 50% with SEQ ID NO: 3.
- 14. A nucleic acid fragment derived from Chlamydia pneumoniae comprising the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 5,
 20 or a variant or subsequence of said nucleotide sequence which has a sequence homology of at least 50% with SEQ ID NO:5.
 - 15. A nucleic acid fragment derived from *Chlamydia* pneumoniae comprising the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 7, or a variant or subsequence of said nucleotide sequence which has a sequence homology of at least 50% with SEQ ID NO: 7.
 - 16. An at least partially purified nucleic acid fragment according to any of claims 12-15.
 - 17. A protein derived from *Chlamydia pneumoniae* having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or variant or

subsequence thereof having a sequence homology of at least 50% and a substantially identical biological activity.

- 18. A protein derived from *Chlamydia pneumoniae* having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 or variant or subsequence thereof having a sequence homology of at least 50% and a substantially identical biological activity.
- 19. A protein derived from *Chlamydia pneumoniae* having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 or variant or subsequence thereof having a sequence homology of at least 50% and a substantially identical biological activity.
- 20. A protein derived from *Chlamydia pneumoniae* having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 or variant or subsequence thereof having a sequence homology of at least 50% and a substantially identical biological activity.
- 15 21. Polyclonal monospecific antibody against the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 22. Polyclonal monospecific antibody against the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
 - 23. Polyclonal monospecific antibody against the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 24. Polyclonal monospecific antibody against the protein 25 with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
 - 25. Monoclonal antibody against the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant or subsequence thereof.

- 26. Monoclonal antibody against the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 27. Monoclonal antibody against the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
 - 28. Monoclonal antibody against the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 10 29. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising a protein with the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 30. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising a protein with the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 4, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 31. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising a protein with the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 32. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising a protein with the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 25 8, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
 - 33. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising antibodies against a protein with the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2, or a variant or subsequence thereof.

- 34. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising antibodies against a protein with the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 4, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 5 35. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising antibodies against a protein with the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 36. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising antibodies against a protein with the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 8, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 37. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising a nucleic acid fragment with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 38. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising a nucleic acid fragment with the sequence SEQ ID 20 NO: 3, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
 - 39. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising a nucleic acid fragment with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 5, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 25 40. A diagnostic kit for the diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said kit comprising a nucleic acid fragment with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 7, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 41. A composition for immunizing a mammal, such as a 30 human, against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said composition

comprising a protein with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a variant or subsequence thereof.

- 42. A composition for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said composition comprising a protein with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 43. A composition for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said composition comprising a protein with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 44. A composition for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, said composition comprising a protein with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8, or a variant or subsequence thereof.
- 15 45. Use of a protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant or subsequence thereof in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*.
- 46. Use of a protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 or a variant or subsequence thereof in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*.
- 47. Use of a protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 or a variant or subsequence thereof in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia pneumoniae*.
- 48. Use of a protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 or a variant or subsequence thereof in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with *Chlamydia* 30 pneumoniae.

- 49. Use of the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant or subsequence thereof in an undenatured form, in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with Chlamydia pneumoniae.
- 5 50. Use of the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 or a variant or subsequence thereof in an undenatured form, in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with Chlamydia pneumoniae.
- 51. Use of the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 or a variant or subsequence thereof in an undenatured form, in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with Chlamydia pneumoniae.
- 52. Use of the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 or a variant or subsequence thereof in an undenatured form, in diagnosis of infection of a mammal, such as a human, with Chlamydia pneumoniae.
 - 53. Use of a protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a variant or subsequence thereof, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*.
- 20 54. Use of a protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4, or a variant or subsequence thereof, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*.
- 55. Use of a protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6, or a variant or subsequence thereof, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.
 - 56. Use of a protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8, or a variant or subsequence thereof, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*.
- 57. Use of the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID 30 NO: 2 or a variant or subsequence thereof in an undenatured

form, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.

- 58. Use of the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 or a variant or subsequence thereof in an undenatured form, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.
- 59. Use of the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 or a variant or subsequence thereof in an undenatured form, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.
- 60. Use of the protein with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 or a variant or subsequence thereof in an undenatured form, for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.
- 15 61. Use of a nucleic acid fragment with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 or a variant or subsequence of said nucleotide sequence showing a sequence homology of at least 50% to SEQ ID NO: 1 for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.
- 20 62. Use of a nucleic acid fragment with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 or a variant or subsequence of said nucleotide sequence showing a sequence homology of at least 50% to SEQ ID NO: 3 for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.
- 25 63. Use of a nucleic acid fragment with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 or a variant or subsequence of said nucleotide sequence showing a sequence homology of at least 50% to SEQ ID NO: 5 for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against Chlamydia pneumoniae.
- 30 64. Use of a nucleic acid fragment with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 or a variant or subsequence of

said nucleotide sequence showing a sequence homology of at least 50% to SEQ ID NO: 7 for immunizing a mammal, such as a human, against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*.

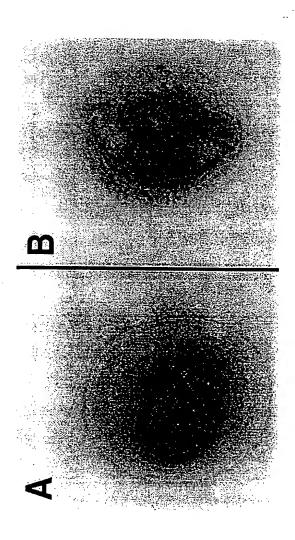
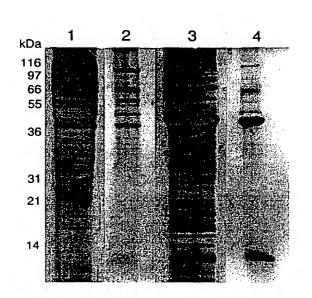
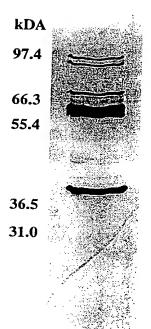


Fig. 1

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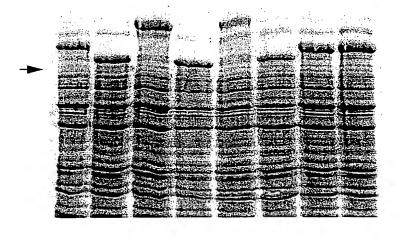


Fig. 4

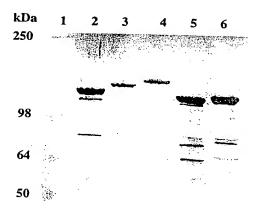
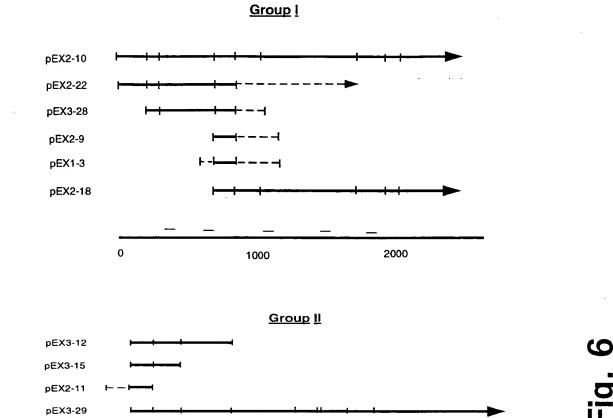
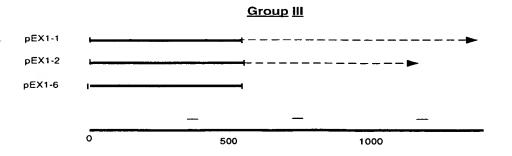


Fig. 5

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Assembled pEX contics.

Fig. 6

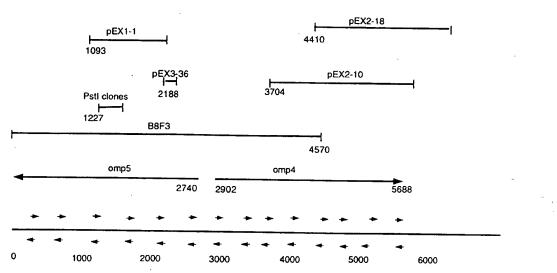
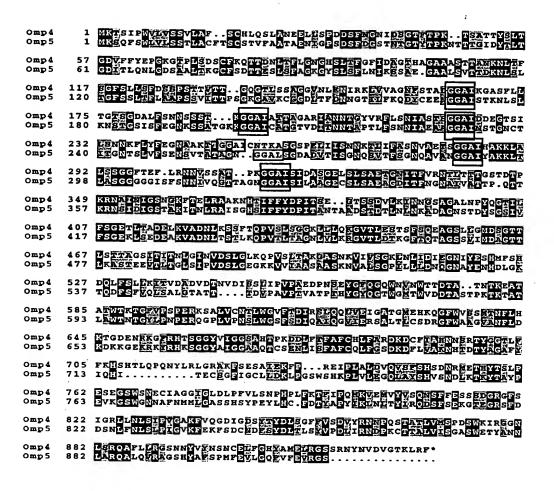


Fig. 7

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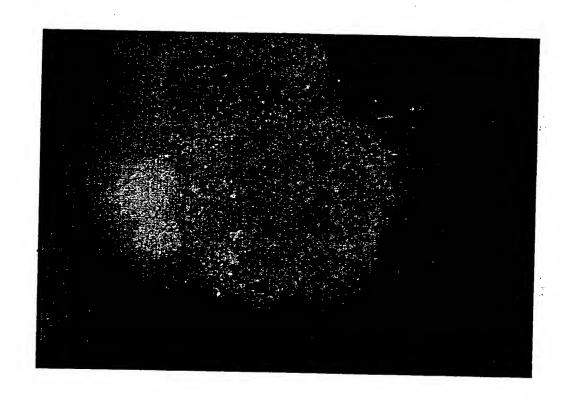


Fig. 9

Fig. 10

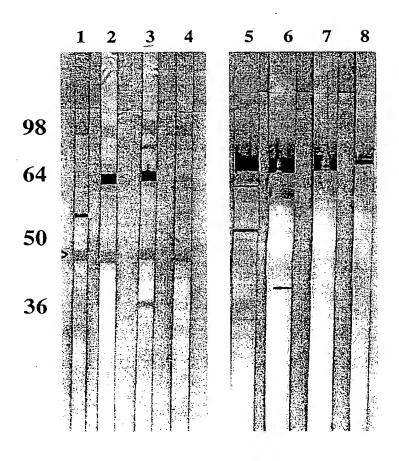


Fig. 11

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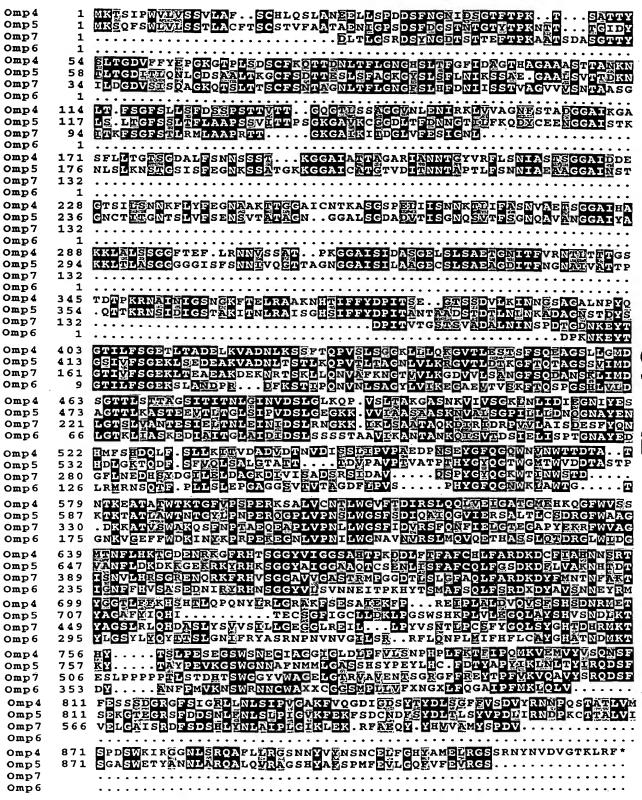


Fig. 12